

# GENTLE SHEPHERD MINISTRIES

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*CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH ~ MAKING DISCIPLES ~ EQUIPPING THE SAINTS FOR MINISTRY*

## CONDEMNATION OR CONVICTION?

Discipleship Series 7  
By Rayola Kelley

We are clearly living in precarious times, but they are also exciting because we are watching Bible prophecy come true. *Hebrews 12:27* tells us that everything will be shaken that can be shaken. At this moment, the financial markets of the world, as well as our nation are being shaken. As I listen to the news, I realize as a Christian it is time to take to stock in where my confidence lies, as well as my heavenly citizenship, and my eternal destination.



The Bible tells us the things of the world are all temporary, but what I possess as a Christian is eternal. Such consideration allows me to once again confidently cling to the source of my hope, the immovable Rock of Jesus. Regardless of the dark times in which we live, Jesus will never change no matter how much the world may shake. He is the same today, as He was yesterday and will be tomorrow.

As Christians, we know that we are in this world, but we are not to belong or be part of it. We are to be strangers to the ways of the world, and pilgrims in regard to the influences and philosophies of the world (1 *Peter 2:11*). Being strangers and pilgrims in this present age points to not only the type of attitude we need towards the world, but how we are to walk in it. As strangers we will not be attracted to the fleshly ways of the world, and as pilgrims we will not only separate from the ways of the world, but we will live separate from those ways.

Because of the times in which we live, it is vital that we examine our walk. Since we are walking through this world, we must consider how it is

affecting us. After all, there are the cares of the world that can make us anxious, and will choke out the power of God's Word. There are the entanglements of the world that have the capacity of causing us to get caught up with its endless affairs and causes. There are the ways of the world that will cause tribulation, the spirit of the world that works within those who are disobedient, and the god of this world that blinds people to the light or life of the Gospel (*Matthew 13:22; John 16:33; 2 Corinthians 4:2-6; Ephesians 2:2; 2 Timothy 3-4*).

As we consider the type of attitude we must have towards the world, we must recognize that our attitude towards it will determine how we walk in our present age. Walk also points to how we live or the type of lifestyle we develop along the way. In summation, our walk points to how we are going to actually live out our life in this present world.

The Bible tells us we will operate according to one of the two spiritual laws that are in operation. These laws are identified by the Apostle Paul in *Romans 8:2*: "For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death." To walk according to our life in Christ means to walk after the Spirit. To walk in the law of sin and death means to walk according to the flesh.

The Apostle Paul summarizes the conditions that these two walks will produce in *Romans 8:1*: "There is, therefore no condemnation to them who are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."

Our walk will also determine what we reap in our life. *Galatians 6:7-8*: "Be not deceived, God is not mocked, for whatever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting."

There is a clear distinction concerning the two ways people are walking out their lives. Those who walk

according to the Spirit will reap everlasting life, but those who walk according to their fleshly dictates will reap the corruption of death.

This brings us to the state in which we will walk out these different lives. We will either walk in a state of condemnation or we will walk according to a state of perpetual conviction. It is important to understand these two states, for they will clearly be identified by the fruit that they produce in our lives. Obviously, people are not only choosing the quality of life they will experience, but how that life will be expressed to others.

Let us consider the first state of condemnation. Condemnation first reminds us of the Law. When we walk according to the flesh, we are brought under the jurisdiction of the Law of God. This Law has declared us transgressors, guilty of breaking it, and, therefore, subject to the penalty of death.

In a sense, people who are walking in condemnation are the walking dead. They are spiritually dead towards that which can give them life. As a result, they have no hope, but only the fearful reality that eventually their death sentence will be carried out by the court of heaven. Although they may be experiencing certain aspects of the world, it all represents that which is corrupt.

Corruption points to that which has been contaminated by immorality, tainted by that which is depraved, perverted by dishonesty, and ultimately considered undesirable and putrid. This invading corruption points to that which will prove to be rotten, or decomposed to the core as it is brought forth into the light of the heavenly life that has been made available through Christ.

When we speak of the dishonesty of corruption, we must note that it points to the darkness of delusion. People who walk according to the flesh walk in delusion about the darkness they are walking in. Every aspect of this darkness contains the ways of death. There is no life that can be found in any of it. In the end, as they gulp to partake of the cup of worldly pursuits, they will simply end up tasting the bitterness left by vanity.

They will blindly feel their way through this world according to their fleshly dictates and experience, leaving them in the wake of despair of guilt. They may cling to the small glimmer of hope the world offers, only to discover that it is fading into the abyss of hopelessness.

Although people walk in the tormenting and disappointing delusion of the false light this present age promises, they still prefer its darkness to the life of God. The reason for such preference is that they prefer their works of darkness. These works serve their purpose, as well as justifying their sin.

The second state people can walk in is the perpetual state of the conviction of the Holy Spirit. Conviction works from two premises. You have the conviction of guilt about sin. In fact, in this type of conviction you will actually be agreeing or taking God's side about being guilty in regard to trespassing His Law or breaking His covenant. We know that it is the Holy Spirit that brings such conviction upon our conscience with the intent of bringing us to repentance. It is only at the place of repentance that we can seek forgiveness or pardon from God by confessing our sin. Upon our confession, we must believe by faith that we have been forgiven, and that our conscience now stands cleansed.

As you consider the difference between condemnation and conviction, you will see that in condemnation, there is no hope. You have been judged and in a matter of time you will actually taste the judgment of it. Conviction is for the purpose of bringing a person to a place of restoration. When you think about how many people prefer to walk in condemnation to maintain their works of darkness, you begin to realize how foolishness is truly bound in the heart of people.

The second type of conviction involves attitudes that are established by a deep sense of fervor about a matter. This fervor results in actions that are compelled by passion and assurance. The Holy Spirit is the One who brings a powerful conviction to our spirits about spiritual matters. Such a conviction has to do with righteousness. The Gospel

of John tells us that the Holy Spirit reproves us of sin, of righteousness and of judgment (*John 16:7-11*). Clearly, the conviction of the Holy Spirit reveals sin, establishes what is considered righteousness, and shows that judgment has already been pronounced on Satan.

At this point people might wonder why the Holy Spirit has been entrusted with the responsibility of conviction. The Bible tells us that the Holy Spirit serves as our witness. As Christians, we have two main witnesses to confirm a matter. They are God's Word and His Spirit. The Word of God tells us how to live according to the character of God. It brings a clear contrast between light and darkness. When we encounter or are challenged by the Word of God, the Holy Spirit will take it, and impart the intent or truth of it to our spirits. This not only validates or confirms the Word, but it will also bring forth the compelling conviction as to how we are to handle the truth to ensure right standing before God in our Christian walk.

Clearly, the Spirit must be the one who convicts us of a matter. I am sure you have experienced the harsh judgments of other people who are trying to be your conscience or be the Holy Spirit in a matter. These individuals come to you out of so-called "concern" about a particular action, belief or handling of a situation on your part. They voice their "concern" with the intent of stirring up your conscience in order to compel you to line up to their way of thinking. However, you know they are not your conscience, and that there are matters they are not aware of in regard to the situation. Nevertheless, you must discern or make sure that the Holy Spirit is not trying to bring conviction to you through this person.

If the Holy Spirit does not bring confirmation to the person's "concern," you can at that time consider it to be simply the person's opinion, thereby, disregarding it. The problem that arises from this development is that the individuals who are "concerned" often become insulted that you did not properly regard their instruction or warning. Due to pride, it can prove to be hard for them to accept that the "concern" they had came out of vain imaginations, and that it would not be proper for them to insist or force their particular reality on

anyone.

The reason that Christians cannot accept any other conviction other than from the Spirit of God is because the Holy Spirit prepares and enables them to make the necessary change in order to come into line with righteousness. On the other hand, a person who is forcing personal convictions on others will simply be burdening these individuals with indifferent demands or requirements that will leave them feeling oppressed.

Since the Holy Spirit is the one who must bring conviction to us in regards to the quality of our walk, we are commanded to walk *after* the Spirit, be *led* by the Spirit and to walk *in* the Spirit. Although we could clearly exchange the intent or principle of these three decisive responses, they do present a picture that reveals the type of emphasis, attitude and approach we must adopt towards our walk.

We are told to follow *after* righteousness. Clearly, as we walk after the Spirit according to righteousness, we will find ourselves coming into submission to the *leading* of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit wants to lead us by way of revelation into greater heights in Jesus, as well as enabling us to experience the depths of His abiding presence in and upon our lives. Once He leads us to these inner places of growth and communion, we will discover what it means to truly walk *in* the Spirit concerning God's will and purpose for our lives.

The main question we must ask ourselves is how do we avail ourselves to this walk? The first thing we must do is become open to the work of the Spirit. This openness involves taking on the disposition of lowliness and the attitude of meekness. Once we become sensitive to the Spirit, we can begin to walk *after* Him in obedience to the ways of righteousness. As we follow Him, His fruit will be developed in our lives as we become submissive to His gentle *leading*.

Godly submission gives way to that which is greater for the benefit of God's kingdom. As we give way to the Spirit, He begins to work the life of Jesus in us in greater ways. The deeper He goes the more that Jesus' life and likeness will be lifted up in our life for all to see. As the life of Jesus is being

## KINGDOM AGAINST KINGDOM

By Jeannette Haley

Thanks to the economic crisis, the American “sleeping giant” suddenly woke up. The one thing that will make people angrier than a wet hornet is having a handful of slick-talking politicians get away with stealing their money on a grand scale. In fact, this final theft helped tip the fragile “house of financial cards” that has been building up over the years since the Great Depression in the 30’s, leaving a pile of economic chaos and disaster that may never be overcome.

It’s rather amazing to watch what most people’s priorities are in this country. Obviously the economy is at the top of the list. While this may be understandable because, after all, the economy affects every single one of us, is it really what our first priority should be? If you are a Bible-believing Christian, you surely know the answer to that question. Jesus said: *“Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment”* Matthew 22:37, 38. Not, “You shall love your money, and all it can buy, above all else.” He also told the people, *“No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon”* Matthew 6:24. In Matthew 6:19-21 we read: *“Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”*

Clearly, Jesus was talking about the condition of the heart. In this day and age, I think that most people (including the sleeping, worldly church) have become either so conditioned by the philosophy of the world, or burdened by the world, or caught up with the world, that they dismiss the fact that God knows every thought we think, every word we speak, and every deed we do. He most definitely

knows our heart condition which involves where our priorities and faith truly lay. And, where our heart is determined which kingdom we belong to.

Concerning the Christian and treasures in heaven, William MacDonald, in his excellent book, “True Discipleship,” wrote “The only way we can lay up our treasures in heaven is to put them into something that is going to heaven. When a Christian sees that his material possessions can be used in the salvation of precious souls, he loses his love for ‘things.’ Luxury, wealth and material splendor turn sour in his stomach. He longs to see the mammon of unrighteousness converted by divine alchemy into worshippers of the Lamb forever and ever. He is captivated by the possibility of doing a work in human lives that will bring eternal glory to God and eternal blessing to the people themselves. The manner in which we deal with material things, the extent to which we grasp them, is a test of our character. Earthly treasures are not true riches; their value is finite and temporal. Spiritual treasures are true riches; their value cannot be measured and will never end. Unless a man is dependable in his handling of material things, he cannot expect God to trust him with spiritual prosperity in this life or treasures in heaven.” He went on to conclude, “There cannot be divided allegiance. A disciple cannot live for two worlds. A steward either loves God or loves mammon. If he loves mammon, he hates God.” The question is what does your stewardship reveal about your character?

The Bible teaches us that there are two unseen kingdoms—the kingdom of light, ruled by God, and the kingdom of darkness, ruled by Satan. Revelation 16:10 tells us: *“And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain.”* [Emphasis added.] The Apostle Paul, when referring to spiritual darkness, called Satan *“the god of this world”* who has *“blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them”* 2 Corinthians 4:4. Jesus, the light of the world, when referring to His kingdom, told Pilate: *“My kingdom is not of this world. . .”*

John 18:36a.

In response to His disciples’ question concerning the end of the age, *“Tell us, when shall these things be? And what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?”* Jesus replied: *“Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows.”* (Matthew 24:3b-8.)

Jesus’ response to His disciples began with a warning concerning deception. Can any of us honestly declare that at any time in the past two-thousand years world-wide deception has been greater than it is today? Granted there have always been counterfeit churches, cults and belief systems, for Satan has, since his fall, had his kingdom of darkness in place, but today deception, or falling away from the true faith once delivered to the saints, is global in scale. We need to take note of Isaiah 25:7 which explains that there is a *“covering cast over all people, and [a] veil . . . spread over all nations.”* Jesus will destroy this evil covering and veil when He returns to set up His kingdom. *“And he will destroy in this mountain the face of the covering cast over all people, and the veil that is spread over all nations”* vs. 7. I might add, if you are wondering how multitudes of people can be so utterly blind to Obama’s socialist agenda (as I succinctly put it, “so stupid”) then these verses in Isaiah certainly explain that! It’s rather chilling, don’t you think?

We most certainly hear of wars daily, thanks to modern technology, and the news media. It can be frightening, unnerving, and depressing, yet if we know Jesus, we hear His comforting words to not be troubled. Why? Because no matter how devastating it gets, He has it all under control. If we are in Him, and He is in us, then nothing can destroy us, for if we physically die, our spirit goes on to be with the Lord, but, woe to those who have

shunned God's provision of eternal life through His Son, and who have failed to deny self, pick up their cross, and follow Him.

Jesus then talked about whole nations coming against one another, which we can see, and in the same breath He also said that kingdom would rise against kingdom. While there may be earthly kingdoms rising against one another, I believe that Jesus is referring mainly to spiritual kingdoms—the kingdom of light and the kingdom of darkness. There is a great distinction between darkness and light, just as there is between matured wheat and grown tares. There comes a time when the harvest must be brought in just as surely as there comes a time when the two spiritual kingdoms will become increasingly distinct from one another.

As Jesus continued to explain to His disciples end-time events, one of the things that stands out are the extreme attitudes of hatred that people shall exhibit against those who are of the kingdom of light. People who dwell in darkness despise those who are in the light. Jesus declared, in *John 3:19-21*: *"And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God."* We read in *Matthew 24:9* that the children of the kingdom of God shall be afflicted, killed, and hated by all nations for His name's sake. We read that during this dark time, many shall be offended, betraying one another, hating one another. There will also be many false prophets deceiving many. Then Jesus said: *"And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold"* vs. 12. Notice Jesus' repeated usage of the word "many."

Keeping all of this in mind, it would appear that this year, because of the upcoming presidential election, there has been an unprecedented, shocking and blatant exhibition of outright hatred, and even seething contempt, against those (such as Governor Sarah Palin) who are working to

uphold, and maintain, our traditional American heritage, which is based upon Christian beliefs and values, whether the atheists, and mockers of God and His Word, want to believe it or not. Facts are facts. It's as if the lid has blown off of the cauldron of evil and darkness, while a giant spotlight has been switched on, exposing the heinous corruption that, up to this point, has been carefully tucked away and hidden from the general public's view. When one stops to consider what the major components are that make up the conflicting ideologies, it becomes increasingly clear that we are witnessing a major battle between the two invisible kingdoms. One can almost hear the clashing of swords.

Let's examine just a few of the major battle fronts, beginning with truth. As we have seen, Jesus said that those who love, respond to, act upon, believe in and live by the truth come to the light. Light and truth go hand in hand. You cannot have one without the other. Jesus declared that those who worship God must worship Him in *"spirit and in truth"* (*John 4:24*); that the truth shall make us free (*John 8:32*); that He is *"the way, the truth, and the life"* (*John 14:6*); that the Comforter is the *"spirit of truth"* (*John 15:26*); that we are sanctified through God's truth and that God's Word is truth (*John 17:17*) and those who are of the truth hear His voice (*John 18:37*).

What we are witnessing today is an incredible all-out attack against the truth of the kingdom of light by the lies, hypocrisy, deception, wickedness and outright hatred of the kingdom of darkness. As we witness the superficial covering of so-called "decency" slipping from the contorted countenances of those in the public eye who, through jealousy and hatred, despise all that is true, upright and pure, we can't help but wonder if others are as alarmed at the demonic manifestations as we are. The battle lines are being drawn in sharp relief between truth and deception. And, while some bemoan the fact that America is more divided than united, those of us who belong to the kingdom of light know that truth is a sword that divides. We know that there can be no agreement between light and darkness, truth and lies, good and evil, any more than

there can be agreement between God and Satan.

Another battle front between the children of light and the children of darkness is the issue of abortion. I am not going to beat around the bush on this hotly debated issue, but go straight to the bottom line. Any attempt to abort a baby, from conception to birth, is murder. Allowing a poor little helpless infant who manages to survive an abortion to suffer and die is murder. Trying to dehumanize a baby by calling him or her a "fetus" is simply a wicked attempt to sanitize murder and camouflage hatred for the miracle of life that God has created. The lame excuse for killing a baby because of the "health of the mother" is generally a copout to salvage the mother's "lifestyle." It is wrong, it is wicked, it is contrary to all that is natural, normal and right, and it is anathema and a stench to our holy God. Almost every other living creature in this world loves and protects their young, even by giving their own life to ensure the survival of their offspring, except human beings. We are, as a nation, guilty of the shedding of innocent blood. When God pours out His wrath upon this unspeakable evil, we will have no right to utter one whimper of complaint. No, not one!

Some may argue, "What about in the case of rape, or knowing the baby is deformed, blah, blah, blah?" Don't you think that God knows all about of that? Where in Scripture are there any exceptions to "Thou shalt not kill [murder]?" Don't you think that God can take what Satan has meant for evil, or what may be the result of sin and wickedness because we live in a fallen world, and turn it out for good if we trust Him? Where does God give us the right to decide who lives and who dies because we, having no faith, somehow justify that one evil cancels out another? Have we been so indoctrinated and brainwashed by those who love death rather than life, and who are the enemies of God, that we can no longer think straight according to the Word of God? God says: *"But he that sinneth against me wrongeth his own soul: all they that hate me love death"* *Proverbs 8:36*.

Now, here is a word of hope to those of you who have had an abor-

established in us in greater measure, we will finally come to the place where we will walk *in* the Spirit according to the life of Jesus in us.

Because of the Spirit, the Christian walk is full and complete. There is nothing lacking in it. The Holy Spirit will go before us in preparation, will allow us to walk in His leading to ensure spiritual growth, and in the end we will come into step with Him to be identified to the future glory that awaits us.

What about your walk? Are you walking in condemnation or are you walking according to the conviction of the Holy Spirit? We know that the first type of walk will result in death, but the second walk will result in possessing the fullness of our heavenly inheritance. If you are not sure, consider the fruits coming out of your life. They will identify where you have been walking. †

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tion, or who have been involved in an abortion, and who are suffering the spiritual and emotional consequences. And, believe me, there *are always spiritual, emotional and mental consequences*. If you truly do not want to dwell in the kingdom of darkness, you need to know that God wants to restore you into fellowship with Him. He wants you to confess what this terrible thing has done to His heart, and your heart. He knows that you have betrayed yourself. He is calling you to total repentance. He is waiting for you to come clean of this decision that has brought such devastation in so many ways. Jesus suffered and died for all of our sins, including the sin of murder. You need to give the child a name so as to give him or her an identity. Then you need to mourn for his or her life, followed by placing the little child into the hands of Jesus, and ask for His forgiveness. Tell Him, "Jesus, I am so sorry—so very, very sorry! Please forgive me of this terrible sin!" Then, receive His forgiveness, and, in the words of our Savior, "*go, and sin no more.*"

Gianna Jessen, the bright, young abortion survivor who travels

and speaks out against abortion, concludes in her testimony: "I am happy to be alive. I almost died. Every day I thank God for life. I do not consider myself a by-product of conception, a clump of tissue, or any other of the titles given to a child in the womb. I do not consider any person conceived to be any of those things. I have met other survivors of abortion. They are all thankful for life. Only a few months ago I met another saline abortion survivor. Her name is Sarah. She is two years old. Sarah also has cerebral palsy, but her diagnosis is not good. She is blind and has severe seizures. The abortionist, besides injecting the mother with saline, also injects the baby victims. Sarah was injected in the head. I saw the place on her head where this was done. When I speak, I speak not only for myself, but for the other survivors, like Sarah, and also for those who cannot yet speak ... "Today, a baby is a baby when convenient. It is tissue or otherwise when the time is not right. A baby is a baby when miscarriage takes place at two, three, four months. A baby is called a tissue or clumps of cells when an abortion takes place at two, three, four months. Why is that? I see no difference. What are you seeing? Many close their eyes..."

"The best thing I can show you to defend life is my life. It has been a great gift. Killing is not the answer to any question or situation. Show me how it is the answer.

"There is a quote which is etched into the high ceilings of one of our state's capitol buildings. The quote says, 'Whatever is morally wrong, is not politically correct.' Abortion is morally wrong. Our country is shedding the blood of the innocent. America is killing its future.

"All life is valuable. All life is a gift from our Creator. We must receive and cherish the gifts we are given. We must honor the right to life."

Another dividing line between the kingdom of light and the kingdom of darkness is the issue of what defines marriage. Let's face it; if you believe God's definition of marriage, then you believe that it is the union of one man and one woman. End of story. However, those who disagree with God on such things as purity, abstaining from fornication, fleeing youthful lusts, despising perversion, and living an up-

right and moral life, fight for their so-called "right" to redefine the meaning of holy matrimony. Despising and ignoring Scriptures such as *Romans 1*, and *Leviticus 18:22-30; 20:13*, homosexuals continue to unabashedly parade their gross perversion and defilement before the eyes of the world. God and truth, however, never change. Therefore, homosexuality is an abomination to God, and always has been and will be until all such iniquity, or moral deviation, is terminated forever by Him in the new heaven and the new earth.

Opposing ideologies coming to the forefront in this historical election can also be seen in the battle between the kingdom of darkness and the kingdom of light. All philosophies, beliefs, religions, or agendas that reject the God of the Bible, Creator of heaven and earth, and that likewise reject and mock His Word, His moral Law, His judgment on sin, His salvation through Jesus Christ His Son, Jesus Christ, God Incarnate, are part of the kingdom of darkness. This includes philosophies that "tickle the ears" of the unenlightened such as humanism and socialistic agendas, such as "distributing the wealth." Those in the kingdom of light know that all such ideologies originate from the prince of the power of the air (Satan) and not from God, for in order to implement these burdensome beliefs, all people become slaves to the state, or government. Personal freedom of thought, speech and belief is controlled by harsh taskmasters. Socialism destroys the very fiber of a free nation, and rips the heart out of people, leaving them defeated, depressed and despondent. I fear that whole generations of our youth have been indoctrinated and brainwashed into this godless philosophy through our lower and higher educational systems. They are the unwitting fodder of another Nazi regime unless God has mercy upon this nation and delivers us for the sake of Israel, and His elect in America.

As we see Satan's kingdom rising against God's kingdom, may we be reminded of God's promise to those whose names are written in the Book of Life: "*And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said,*

*Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death" Revelation 21:4-8.*

My hope and prayer for you is that you are, without a doubt, a part of the kingdom of light. Then, together, and very soon, we shall enter into the joy of our Lord, to swell with Him in His kingdom forever and ever. †

## EMAILS AND COMMENTS

"I just did a quick stroll in your site and saw you have an article on the "Manifested Sons of God." I got caught in that teaching the first 2-3 years of my salvation. Good ole dead Bill Briton. We saw him preach one day and he was good...fed the pride in us real good that is. One night the Lord told me I had forgotten the simplicity of His Word to destroy all I had on this false teaching...let me tell you I had a lot of their junk too...I tore it all up and renounced it on the spot...it took some time for me to quit coming up with bits and pieces of their doctrine...you know Bill was supposed to live for ever on this earth here and now I mean...I've often wondered how they lined that up when he had the [nerve] to die?" - AR

"I am writing today because I just reread Rayola's book 'Parents are People Too.' I have to admit the second reading was even better for me. I felt impressed to reread this book and glad I did. I think the name is wrong however, only because it is so much more than about parents. I found myself applying this book and scriptures to my children as well...when I made the decision to really follow Christ my kids went nuts and basically shut me out of their lives...since my identity was so much wrapped up in my kids I found myself looking back at that and

trying to hold on to being a mom more than I was looking forward and to Christ and being a follower of HIM...I knew my parents were toxic and it was easy to walk away from them and hand them over to GOD. However, as a mom I was constantly trying to fix the relationships I had with my children and it was literally making me sick. I can see now after reading this book and searching scriptures that as a mom I have to let my kids go and let GOD deal with them. He is the only one who can save them. It does not mean I am a bad mom if I walk away, because I was one of the things interfering in what the Father needed to do to help them. A huge burden has lifted off me since I realized I am not responsible for saving my children....GOD has that job! Thanks my sister for writing this book. I will read it many more times I am sure, to remind myself that taking up the cross is not looking back but going forward..." AR

"Where do I start? The [Hidden Manna] seminar took me to my core more than I knew..." - ID

"I lost six hours of work today due to a client cancelling. I was worried about it then I listened to a sermon of Rayola's about anxiety and God as our provider of what we have need of. The sermon gave me God's perspective." - ID

"The America we once new is slowly dying and it seems the main point of all American political activities seems to be Christians vs. non-Christians. Have you heard of Michael Evans, a converted Jew who claims according to Scripture (which we know to be truth) that as we continue to help drive out the Jews from their homeland directly or indirectly, that we will suffer the consequences, and I agree. As we know, the Lord said that the Jews homeland is Israel and if we bless them, the Lord blesses us. Michael Evans seems to believe that hurricanes Ike and Katrina were hurricanes which came about the times we were trying to create "freedom" at the expense of the Jews and I agree. Keep your articles coming my way, and THANK YOU such much for Rayola and you being the Godly warriors that you are. You have enriched my life, and I know the lives of others." - FL

"I am not excited at all about the

upcoming election. I believe that if McCain is elected, there will be some stability and maybe a degree of economic turnaround. On the other hand, if Obama is elected (and I believe he will be elected, for the sake of prophecy coming to pass; the end of the current age) this nation will see trouble like never before, both economically, politically, and militarily, not to mention the morality of the nation dropping even lower than it is at the present time. Obama is ultra-liberal and stands for just about everything that is anti-God. He has no regard for the unborn, and supports civil unions, the unholy alliance of same-sex "marriages". If this nation has any hope of continuing to be a recipient of God's mercy, it BETTER stay on the side of Israel, or the writing is on the wall and America's days are numbered! Yes, only because of the righteous has God not destroyed this wicked nation from off the face of the earth. However, He only gives a space to repent, and I think America is running out of space. As concerning the current crisis, I think it is a result of years of war abroad and moral decay here at home. I believe only a true brokenness and deep, heartfelt repentance from this nation before God will turn things around. It doesn't appear that is going to happen though, for we know the Bible speaks of end time apostasy, not revival. (1 Timothy 4:1-2, 2 Timothy 3:1-5; 2 Peter 2:1-3) Yes, God have mercy!" - MD

"I've only just now jumped into the buffet line at the table of GSM, [October Newsletter] but I had to STOP and let you know how very AS-TUTE and rich this portion was: 'Notice how knowledge is sandwiched between virtue (character) and temperance (self-control) in the qualities named by Peter. **If character is absent in knowledge, a person will fail to handle it properly. Knowledge applied in a proper way becomes wisdom. Therefore, knowledge that is void of character or wisdom will have no discipline or temperance to learn the lessons of life.**' BRILLIANT, My sisters! - FL

"History repeats over and over. It is a difficult thing to watch our country blindly betray itself." - ID

## RAYOLA'S Q & A CORNER

### IS AMERICA UNDER GOD'S JUDGMENT?

**Q:** *Do you think that in light of the recent happenings of Hurricane Ike, fires in California and the financial meltdown that God is judging this country?*

**A:** The answer to your question is yes, no or maybe. We know that God is in control of the elements. Interestingly, many of the hurricanes that have touched down in America often correlate with the United States' attempt to get Israel to concede with their enemies in some way. For example, if my facts serve me right, when Katrina hit the states, Jewish settlers were being forced to leave their homes on the West Bank, thanks to this nation's political interference and pressure. When it came to Ike, information came out that the United States was trying to get Israel to concede to divide Jerusalem. Other than being a faithful support military support against her enemies, the United States needs to keep her nose out of the affairs of the domestic struggles Israel has with those who are trying to destroy these people from within. Israel still represents God's land and people, and Jerusalem is His city. As far as California is concerned, I have occasionally noticed that fires have coincided with the immoral or corrupt laws or practices that are being touted and honored by some of the leaders in this bankrupt state. Coincidences or reaping consequences? You decide.

Whether God is judging, shaking or warning this nation, I think we, as Americans, need to realize just how fragile we are. We can call ourselves powerful and great, but storms and fires reveal how vulnerable humanity really is.

When it comes to the financial meltdown, it is man caused. Although man loves to blame God for such failures, it is quite clear that man created this crisis, and those who turned their heads and ignored it while receiving financial benefits, need to take the responsibility for betraying the American people, and pay back any bribe

money or benefits that they accepted for their silence and cover up. However, it is important that we understand what happened so we can take note and learn from it.

As a young girl I grew up politically aware that there were two main distinct parties. These two parties were neither good nor bad. They both basically respected the principles that made this country great. What brought distinction to them was that they had different approaches to ensuring the healthy function of this nation. Their approaches were based on their emphasis. One party emphasized the need to encourage an environment in which business could thrive, thereby, ensuring jobs and a healthy economy. The other one emphasized the need to protect the little guy through regulations from being improperly abused and overlooked by powerful companies. In a way these two approaches ensured balance.

Due to the influence of humanistic, socialistic education in our colleges and universities, as well as in radical High School programs for the last three or four decades, many people have unknowingly been indoctrinated with a socialistic view that is far from the principles that Americans once agree upon. As a result, we now have a country divided by two opposing ideologies: Capitalism and Socialism.

Capitalism is what has allowed Americans to realize the American dream. It affords those who are willing to work hard, display integrity in their practices, and responsibility towards their obligations, of establishing a more excellent life. Granted, some had to make their own opportunities and others had to fight for them, but people still could change the quality of their lives. As a result, people from all kinds of backgrounds and from all nationalities have been able to excel in various ways in this nation.

Socialism believes in distributing the wealth. In other words, it advocates equality for all. This may sound noble, but in order to bring about this equality, government must not only decide how to distribute the wealth, but it must be in control of all institu-



tions to carry it out. Although we can all agree that man is created equal, not all people are equal. This lack of equality has nothing to do with backgrounds, financial status or opportunities; rather it has to do with attitude or mentality. There are some people who possess a welfare mentality. In other words, they want to be taken care of; therefore, they have no initiative to pursue any other type of life. You can offer these people opportunities, but they will somehow whine that it is not the type of opportunity they are looking for. You can offer them money, but their purse proves to be full of holes, and they will be quickly separated from any financial benefits by their foolish ways. Unless these people are forced into a situation that requires them to step outside of their unproductive way of thinking, they will remain leeches who continue to suck on the system.

When we talk about socialism making all people equal in status, it does not mean bringing these individuals up to a higher quality of life, rather it means bringing everyone down to the status of welfare. In fact, pure socialism is nothing more than Communism. As recent history has proven, some of the European countries can testify as to what the ideology of Communism does to any great nation. It will make it into a third-world country where there are only two classes: those in the government and those who serve it as slaves.

This brings me to the financial meltdown. There are Democrats in Congress that clearly hold to the socialistic worldview. They decided that every American should be given the opportunity to own their own homes. In order to bring this about, they had to convince, or put pressure on, the lending institutions to throw out common sense procedures by overlooking their criteria of demanding the proper collateral (down payments), ensuring that the person had the income to pay loans back, and the credit history that showed they are responsible to meet their obligations.

The problem with throwing out these protective procedures and measures is that you open a door to greed, abuse and irrational, unethical practices that will present a false picture of what is really going on. People

were presented with a successful picture that revealed assets (mortgages) booming to an all-time high, but in truth the presentation was nothing more than a house of cards that cleverly hid the harsh reality that nothing but paper backed the high risk loans.

People begin to speculate and invest on the basis that, not only was there an incredible appearance of prosperity occurring in the housing market, but apparently there was also some type of government guarantee since it was associated with Fanny Mae and Freddie Mack. As the excitement and speculation grew, the wave of inflation escalated to the size of a tsunami. Like all waves, it must eventually crash against the shoreline of reality, leaving a wake of devastation behind it.

Irresponsible procedures can only sow and reap irresponsible actions. Many of these people that were given an opportunity to own their home did not have the means to pay their mortgages. The health of the free market depends on money flowing into money institutions and from them into the hands of people for further investments. Foreclosures began to occur, and many people simply walked away from their homes that were now being greatly devalued below the purchase price. After all, they had no real personal investment to lose, but the domino affects began to dry up the cash flow, revealing that what remained was nothing but worthless paper.

It is important for the American people to learn from this experience. The best way you can summarize this lesson is with Jesus' parable of the cloth and wineskin found in *Matthew 9:16-17*. You cannot take the growing ideology of socialism and force its ways upon the proven, stable practices of capitalism without destroying the integrity and effectiveness of the free market. As a divisive means socialists would have each of us think this meltdown was the fault of capitalism, to try to prove it does not work. However, capitalism works and has the ability to correct itself as long as there is no interference. Clearly, it was the ideology of socialism that defiled capitalism, revealing

that it clearly fails to realistically benefit a society as a whole.

You might be asking me how I know socialism is a failure. It is easy to prove. The wealth of this country was distributed so that people, who could not meet the necessary criteria to purchase a home, had their equal opportunity to do so. And, guess who initially paid for this equal opportunity? If not recouped, it cost the people of Main Street their hard-earned pension funds and investments. I rest my case.

A final thought. Even though it appears that voting has been compromised by an organization that has its own self-serving agenda, we still can voice our vision for this nation. However, I want to challenge people to realize that they are not simply voting for some particular party, or promises that will best suit them; rather, they are voting for an agenda that is motivated by a particular ideology that will clearly affect the future environment of this nation. Although he dishonestly tries to deny it, the change that is being advocated by one of the presidential candidates to spread other people's wealth to the poor is socialism. We need to wisely consider where the politicians with their agendas will ultimately take our nation in the end. It is from this premise of honest evaluation that we will be able to wisely and responsibly cast our vote.

#### **WILL AMERICA JOIN THE MISERY OF THE CITIZENS OF THE UK?**

"These things [freedom, economy, housing, decent health care, etc.] have already been destroyed here!! Illegal immigrants, aliens are all allowed to use our health system without paying. They all get benefits from the state, and housing BEFORE the people that belong here. They have stolen our jobs, and more and more Britons are out of work because of them. This latest bank scam has been engineered by the government/EU/illuminati and now they have got hold of the banks and the properties they hold on mortgage, the food and petrol situation has eased! Of course, they have got what they wanted. Repossessed

homes are rocketing, and the Gov. intends to buy them at rock bottom price of course and rent them to the occupiers! Control, control, control - that's what it's all about. They are now talking about forcing the Euro money on us, soon there won't be any cash anyway, it will all be cards, until they manage to persuade people these are too risky, and they need the mark !!! - FT - UK

"It appears as though the Elitists' plans are coming together. Bankrupt the US, make us a 3<sup>rd</sup> world country, collapse the current system, bring in the anti-Christ kingdom, mark of the beast, The Amero, New World order, banking, etc,etc. Obama (Puppet for the powers) looks to me to be the beginning of the End?" - JB—ID

#### **QUOTES**

*Psalm 89:14 - Justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne: mercy and truth shall go before thy face.*

These shall be the heralds that shall announce the coming of the Judge. His truth binds him to fulfill all his declarations; and his mercy shall be shown to all those who have fled for refuge to the hope that is set before them in the Gospel.— C.H. Spurgeon

"I walked out to the hill just now. It is exalting, delicious to stand embraced by the shadows of a friendly tree, with the wind tugging at your coattails and the heavens hailing your heart, to gaze, glory, and give oneself again to God. What more could a man ask? May haps in mercy He shall give me a host of children, that I may lead them through the vast star fields, whose finger ends sets them to burning. But if not, if only I can know Him, touch His garments and smile into His eyes, Ah then not stars nor children shall matter. Only Himself." — Jim Elliot, Martyred by the Auca Indians in Ecuador

#### **THANKSGIVING**

A time to remember, reflect, and rejoice in God's goodness. A time to renew our commitment to the LORD Jesus Christ, and His will for our lives. A time to ponder the heroism and great sacrifice of our Christian forefathers who founded this nation upon God, and biblical principles of freedom and justice. A time to PRAY for America!!!

